

Cemetery history

In the mid-19th century, Hillsborough — or Hillsboro, as it was frequently spelled — was running out of space in the town's only public graveyard, the Old Town Cemetery. Adjacent land near that graveyard, located at the corner of North Churton and West Tryon streets, was not available.

Land for a separate African-American graveyard was established in the mid-1850s on Margaret Lane's south side, but the Margaret Lane Cemetery (also sometimes called the Old Slave Cemetery) only helped temporarily.

In about 1871, a new town cemetery was created by the town commissioners in an area where bodies already had been interred.

Today, the Hillsborough Town Cemetery is the largest cemetery in Hillsborough, with more than 3,200 burials and all plots purchased. The cemetery and its monuments contain a reflection of the lives that make up the historic fabric of Hillsborough — from mayors and other important political figures to military war veterans and short-lived children. The Town Cemetery is a place of reflection and memories.



Town Cemetery

The Hillsborough Town Cemetery is open from sunrise to sunset.

It is located off Churton Street between East Corbin Street and U.S. 70. Entrances are on North Cameron and East Corbin streets.

Flowers and ornaments

The town may remove any plant that hinders cemetery maintenance. It also may remove floral designs, flowers or any plants as soon as they deteriorate.

Decorative items, including flower vases, may not be placed on the ground around gravestones between March 1 and Nov. 1 due to grounds maintenance. Citizens may place small flags in the ground around gravesites during Veterans Day and Memorial Day weeks.

Customer service

The Town Cemetery is maintained by the Cemeteries Division of the Hillsborough Public Works Department.

No plots are available for sale currently.

For questions regarding plot sales, certificates of burial right, burial procedures, markers, monuments, or other related issues, contact:

Senior Administrative Support Specialist
Jamie Johnson

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Town Cemetery



Burial Information
and
General Regulations

Burial Information and General Rules

Purchase of burial rights

The fee for a burial plot — whether for interment or cremation — is \$500 for a town resident at the time of purchase and \$1,000 for a non-resident. Fees are subject to change.

A certificate of burial right, identifying the owner and the lots and plots, will be issued. No plots are available for sale currently.

Rights of owners

The owner of a certificate of burial right may use the designated spaces as a place of burial for any person the owner chooses, provided that the purchase regulations are not violated. Upon the owner's death, all rights pass to the heirs, legatees or devisees.

Speculation prohibited

Burial rights may not be sold or exchanged for profit or gain.

Burial rights may not be acquired at an in-town rate for the intended burial of an out-of-town resident.

Burial procedure

Burials and the opening of graves may take place only by a licensed funeral director or the director's employees under town supervision.

The town must be notified one workday in advance of any funeral for which a grave will be opened. Marking of graves prior to opening will be done to the town's specifications and in the town's presence. The town does not provide this service on

weekends or on holidays that fall on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.

No grave will be opened less than 5 feet to the bottom except for cremations. All graves must be level with surrounding areas. Each burial plot is limited to one of the following:

- Interment of one human body.
- Interment of one human body and one cremation urn.
- Interment of up to four cremation urns.

Monuments and markers

Monuments and markers must be placed under town supervision.

Markers must be made of a marble or granite base and may be up to 52 inches in length by 18 inches wide for a double marker and 28 inches in length by 16 inches wide for a single marker.

All markers in zones 7 and 9 must be flat and level with the surrounding ground.

Gravesite maintenance

Funeral homes are responsible for gravesite maintenance during the first six months after burial. If a grave space sinks below surrounding ground, erodes or becomes a problem due to lack of proper restoration or stabilization, the town will notify the responsible funeral director to request corrective action within 10 days.

The Public Works Department is responsible for maintaining gravesites after



the six-month period. For more information, see the Hillsborough Code of Ordinances, Section 13-21: Burial Procedure.

Monument repair

If a monument becomes unsafe, unsightly or in need of repair, the plot owner is responsible. The cemetery administrator handles exceptions on a case-by-case basis.

Monument removal or defacement

Under General Statute 14-140, it is a misdemeanor to remove, break or deface any monument

Disruptive activity

Motor vehicles of any kind may be driven only on the main roads and avenues provided in the cemetery. Equipment necessary for grave preparation or monument setting are allowed.

No unleashed dogs, horses or other animals are allowed in the cemetery, and no animals are allowed to run at large.

No one may post or attach any bills, posters, placards, pictures or any form of political or commercial advertising within the cemetery.